Funds for Urban Infrastructure

1541. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country needs more than Rs. 1,20,000 crores of investment in urban infrastructure over the next seven year;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing adequate funds towards urban infrastructure development;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards demand for evolved municipal bonds as an option for financing urban infrastructure in the country; and

(e) if so, Government's view and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in cities with emphasis on provision of basic services to the urban poor including housing, water supply, sanitation, road network, urban transport, development of inner (old) city areas etc. The Mission envisages central assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore as reform linked Central assistance over the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(d) and (e) In 2000-01, the Government inserted a new clause (vii) in Section 10(15) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, exempting interest income from bonds issued by local authorities. Funds raised from Tax Free Municipal Bonds are to be used only for capital investments in urban infrastructure for providing one or more of the following:

(i) Potable Water Supply

(ii) Sewerage or Sanitation

(iii) Drainage

(iv) Solid waste Management

(v) Roads, Bridges and Flyovers; and

(vi) Urban Transport (if this is a municipal function under respective state legislation)

DPRs from Maharashtra Under JNNURM

1542. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by Maharashtra under JNNURM; and

(b) the number of DPRs that have been sanctioned and their value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) 141 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been submitted by Government of Maharashtra for central assistance under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM to Ministry of Urban Development.

(b) 51 DPRs have been approved under UIG component of JNNURM and their approved cost is Rs. 7528.86 crore.

Metro Rail at Kochi

1543. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for constructing a Metro Rail at Kochi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary approval has been given to the project;

(d) if so, the time by when the work on the project is expected to begin; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala, based on a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for setting up of Metro in Kochi, has submitted a proposal seeking "in principle" approval of Govt. of India for the implementation of the project through a Joint Venture Special Purpose Vehicle of Government of India and State Government.

The proposed alignment is from Always to Petta (Tripunithura) 25.3 Kms. (fully elevated). The estimated completion cost is Rs. 3084 cr. and period of completion is 4 years. They have also proposed to entrust the work to DMRC itself.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Gandhinagar and Porbunder under JNNURM

1544. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the capital cities of the States are included in the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested Central Government to include Gandhinagar and also Porbunder city under JNNURM being the birth place of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the state of Gujarat has been given only Rs. 300 crores under JNNURM; and

(d) if so, whether Government has any proposal to enhance the limit of this allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir. The only exception, however, is Gandhinagar as